



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-50

Effective: 03/02/2021

Review: 03/02/2022

Replaces: 01/15/2016

2-50 CRASH REVIEW BOARD (CRB) (FORMERLY SAFETY REVIEW BOARD)

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

- [1-95 Traffic Section \(Formerly 6-3\)](#)
- [2-6 Use of Emergency Warning Equipment](#)
- [2-46 Response to Traffic Crashes](#)
- [2-47 Crashes Involving Police Vehicles](#)

B. Form(s)

State of New Mexico Uniform Crash Report (UCR)

C. Other Resource(s)

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
National Safety Council (NSC)
NMSA 1978, § 66-7-209 Accident Report Form

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

SO 19-14 Crash Review Board Attendance

2-50-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to convene a Crash Review Board (CRB) to review and classify all Albuquerque Police Department-issued (Department) vehicle crashes as preventable or non-preventable. All preventable crashes are reviewed for cause analysis to prevent similar types of crashes in the future.

2-50-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department to provide guidelines for the CRB, which reviews all Department-issued vehicle crashes.

2-50-3 Definitions

A. Crash

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), a “crash” is defined as an unintended event resulting in injury or damage, involving one or more motor vehicles.

B. Non-Crash



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An accident that is caused by an intentional act is not a crash OR any unavoidable debris, under normal driving conditions, which strikes a motor vehicle likely to cause damage.

C. Non-Preventable Crash

The Department driver exercised every reasonable precaution to prevent the crash, including making due allowances for road conditions, weather, traffic, and errors or negligence of others, and the driver observed applicable Department policies, procedures, and training, including the use of appropriate defensive driving tactics.

D. Preventable Crash

The Department driver failed to exercise every reasonable precaution to prevent the crash, including making due allowances for road conditions, weather, traffic, errors and/or negligence of others, or the driver failed to observe applicable Department policies, procedures, or training, including the misuse of, or failure to use, appropriate defensive driving tactics.

2-50-4 Rules

A. The CRB shall review all crashes involving Department-issued vehicles, except for crashes that result in a fatality or serious injury.

1. Qualified Traffic Section personnel shall investigate crashes that result in a fatality or serious injury. The CRB shall not review fatal or serious injury crashes, consistent with SOP Traffic Section.

B. Appointments to the CRB

1. The CRB shall consist of:

- a. Traffic Commander (chairperson);
- b. Traffic Lieutenant;
- c. Traffic Sergeant;
- d. Traffic Officer;
- e. One (1) Operations Review personnel, who shall review Department-issued vehicle crashes; and
- f. Risk Management Safety Officer, who shall serve as an ex officio member providing technical assistance to the CRB (i.e., loss reduction and hazard elimination principles, and recognized practices and principles applicable to the crash review process).

2. Appointment to the CRB shall be made each calendar year, as follows:

- a. Traffic Commander (chairperson);



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- b. Traffic Lieutenant;
- c. Traffic Sergeant; and
- d. Traffic Officer.

3. Permanent Appointment

- a. Risk Management Safety Officer
- b. Operations Review personnel

4. Advisory Personnel

- a. Internal Affairs Professional Standards (IAPS) Division (civilian personnel)
- b. Traffic Administrative Assistant

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C. Reviewing Department-Issued Vehicle Crashes

1. The CRB, when reviewing Department-issued vehicle crashes, shall:

- a. Notify the affected Department personnel of their crash review appointment time via a Department Memorandum, which shall be posted in the Department's document management system;
 - i. Attendance by Department personnel is voluntary, and no overtime is authorized.
 - ii. If Department personnel attend, only the affected Department personnel shall be allowed to attend the CRB. No uninvolved personnel shall be allowed to attend the review.
 - iii. If Department personnel do not wish to attend, the facts and information shall be taken from the UCR. Photographs and video may be used.
 - iv. If the CRB determines it is necessary to speak with the affected Department personnel to make a determination regarding the crash, it shall have the authority to compel the Department personnel's attendance.
 - v. When Department personnel cannot appear at the scheduled CRB, due to court, services calls, scheduled training, or vacation, and the affected Department personnel wants to voluntarily appear before the CRB, the review shall be rescheduled until the following CRB meeting. This rescheduling shall occur at the request of the affected Department personnel. Only one continuance shall be allowed per crash.
- b. Utilize the National Safety Council (NSC) guidelines for classifying preventable and non-preventable crashes; and
- c. Review each Department-issued vehicle crash not resulting in a fatality or serious injury, and make a determination of whether the crash was preventable crash, non-preventable crash, or a non-crash.
 - i. The CRB shall serve in an advisory capacity, having no disciplinary authority; the Chief of Police, or their designee, has the authority and responsibility to discipline subordinates.
 - ii. CRB recommendations are limited to reducing the frequency, severity, and cost of Department-issued vehicle crashes.



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- iii. All recommendations shall be submitted to the Chief of Police. Recommendations of the CRB are not subject to review or appeal by any other existing Department boards.
- iv. The affected Department personnel's Deputy Chief can override the CRB's findings.
- v. Recommendations may include, but are not limited to:
 1. Remedial or refresher training of the Department-issued vehicle operator;
 2. Review or modification of Department driver training or tactics;
 3. Modification or re-evaluation of Department-issued vehicle or equipment;
 4. Review or modification of Department policies and/or procedures; and
 5. Evaluation of Department personnel for vision defects, stress-related problems, or other conditions affecting their fitness for duty.

2. In the event of a conflict, the Chief of Police or their designee shall have final authority to decide who shall review the case.

D. Disciplinary Guidelines

1. The CRB has no disciplinary authority; the Chief of Police or their designee has the authority and responsibility to discipline subordinates.

- 6 2. All preventable crashes shall be classified as Class 6 sanction classifications and shall be referred to and tracked by the IAPS Division and the CRB.
 - a. Mitigating and aggravating circumstances shall be considered by the Chief of Police or their designee when determining the amount of discipline to be imposed.

- 7 3. When Department-issued vehicle damage is limited to no more than one tire or rim, whether intentional or accidental, and one mounted spare tire can remedy the incident, this shall be considered a non-crash. Reporting requirements shall be consistent with SOP Crashes Involving Police Vehicles.

E. Photographs for the CRB

1. Department personnel who wish to present photographs at their scheduled CRB shall contact the Traffic Lieutenant at least five (5) days in advance.
2. Any photos ordered for the purpose of presentation to the CRB shall remain with the document files and shall not be removed by the person involved.